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Lesson 1

Sidebar

Counting Down to the New Year in Japan

Learn how to say the numbers from zero to ten

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(Counting down for the New Year)

A: 10、9、8、7、6、5、4、3、2、1 ...。

A: あけまして おめでとう ございます!

Vocabulary

Hide

English

Kana

Rōmaji

おめでとう。 [おめでとう。]

Congratulations. (informal)

1 EXAMPLE ▼

おめでとうございます。 [おめでとうございます。]

Congratulations. (formal)

1 EXAMPLE ▲

たんじょうび おめでとうございます。

Happy birthday.(formal)

あけましておめでとうございます。 [あけましておめでとうございます。]

Happy New Year. (formal)

1 EXAMPLE ▲

みなさん、あけましておめでとうございます。

Happy new year, everyone.

あけましておめでとう。 [あけましておめでとう。]

Happy New Year. (informal)

1 EXAMPLE ▲

あけましておめでとう。

Happy new year.

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Mastering the Numbers from Zero to Ten.
あけまして おめでとう ございます!
Jū, kyū, hachi, nana, roku, gō, yon, san, ni, ichi...
"Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one..."
In this lesson, you'll learn how to count from zero to ten in Japanese!

Numbers in Japanese

Let's take a look at the numbers from zero through ten in Japanese.

Numbers from zero through ten:

"NUMBER"	JAPANESE	ALTERNATIVE PRONUNCIATION
"zero"	<i>zero</i>	<i>rei</i>
"one"	<i>ichi</i>	
"two"	<i>ni</i>	
"three"	<i>san</i>	
"four"	<i>yon</i>	<i>shi</i>
"five"	<i>go</i>	
"six"	<i>roku</i>	
"seven"	<i>nana</i>	<i>shichi</i>
"eight"	<i>hachi</i>	
"nine"	<i>kyū</i>	<i>ku</i>
"ten"	<i>jū</i>	

We use the alternative pronunciations for certain numbers with time units or counters. However, in this lesson, let's just focus on the simple way of saying numbers.

Practice

Translate the following Japanese numbers into English!

1. *san*
2. *nana*
3. *jū*

Now, how do you say following numbers in Japanese?

1. "four"
2. "nine"
3. "one"

Answers:

1. *san* = "three"
2. *nana* = "seven"
3. *jū* = "ten"

1. "four" = *yon*
2. "nine" = *kyū*
3. "one" = *ichi*

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ *Akemashite Omedetō Gozaimasu* (あけまして おめでとう ございます)
Akemashite is from the verb *akemasu*, meaning "to open," and *omedetō gozaimasu* is a polite phrase that means "congratulations." We use the phrase *akemashite omedetō gozaimasu* to celebrate the "opening," or start, of a new year. Though it corresponds to "Happy New Year!" in English, unlike the English, you can say *akemashite omedetō gozaimasu* only after a new year has come, even if it's one second after midnight-not before!
Please also note that in informal situations, we leave *gozaimasu* out.
For Example:
1. "Happy New Year!"
Informal: *Akemashite omedetō!*
Formal: *Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu.*

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

数 kazu
number

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